

REMARKS

In response to the Office Action mailed October 10, 2003, claims 1-5 and 8-10 have been amended and claims 6, 7, 11 and 12 have been cancelled. No claim has been newly added. Accordingly, claims 1-5 and 8-10 are active in this application, of which claims 1, 3 and 8 are independent.

Entry of the Amendments and Remarks is respectfully requested because entry of Amendment places the present application in condition for allowance, or in the alternative, better form for appeal. No new matters are believed to be added by these Amendments. Based on the above Amendments and the following Remarks, Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner reconsider the outstanding objections and rejections and they be withdrawn.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §103

In the Office Action, claims 1 and 2 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) for being unpatentable over U. S. Patent No. 5,108,318 issued to Sakurai, *et al.* ("Sakurai") in view of Applicant's Admitted Prior Art ("AAPA"). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

In this response, independent claim 1 has been amended to replace "a connection portion formed with an inclination that is negatively inclined ... thereby connected with the joint portion" with --a connection portion extended from the head portion and bent toward an inner top surface of the through hole--. This feature is shown in Fig. 9 of the present application, in which the connect portion 267b extended from the head portion 267c and bent toward the inner upper surface of the though hole of the housing 268.

Applicant respectfully submits that this newly added recitation clarifies the differences between the claimed invention and the combination of Sakurai and AAPA. Fig. 4 of the present

application shows the connector structure of AAPA. The problem with this conventional connector structure is that the connector terminal 166 is easily dislodged from the connector housing 167. When the connector 165 is coupled or separated, the hot electrode line 163 is repeatedly moved and the connector terminal 166 is also repeatedly moved within the connector housing 167. Such repeated movement causes the hanging projection 167a to be worn out. This causes the connector terminal 166 to be dislodged easily from the connector housing.

The claimed invention is directed to solving the above-mentioned problem. As shown in Fig. 9, the connection portion 267b is bent toward the inner upper surface of the housing 268. With this configuration, when the connector terminal 266 is inserted into the housing 269, “the portion where the hanging jaw 266a is established is placed lower than the front end of the head portion 267c and the joint portion 267a. As a result, the hanging force between the hanging jaw 266a and the hanging projection 268a may become larger.” (Specification, page 15, lines 11-14).

Also, “when the hot electrode line 263 connected to the hot connector terminal 266 moves, the connection portion 267b acts as a lever and thereby the movement of the hot electrode line 263 is not transferred to the hot connector terminal 266. Moreover, even when the hot electrode line 263 is subject to tensile stress due to the repeated coupling of the connector 265, the connector portion 267b acts as a lever, so that the hanging jaw 266a becomes lowered toward the hanging projection 268 of the housing 269” (Specification, page 15, line 21 to page 16, line 5).

In this regard, Fig. 3 and Fig. 4 of Sakurai show a female terminal 15 comprising a female terminal member 22 and a protective sleeve 30. The protective sleeve 30 has a base cylindrical portion 31 and an enlarged diameter portion 32 integrally and coaxially connected to the base cylindrical portion 31 through a step portion 33. The female terminal 14 is inserted into

the cavity 41 from a rear opening 42b of the housing 42 until the enlarged diameter portion 32 of the sleeves passes the stopper arm 40 and then the stopper arms 40 are engaged with the step portion 33 of the sleeve 30. A spacer 50 is provided to prevent the lower arm 40 from being disengaged from the step portion 33.

As explained above, the engagement mechanism in Sakurai involves engagement between the step portion 33 of the protective sleeve 30 and the stopper arms 40 of the female terminal 15, which is significantly different from the engagement of the present invention.

Also, it is submitted that a connection portion between the base cylindrical part 24 and the wire connection section 22 is not bent toward any directions. In fact, the engagement mechanism is perfected by the engagement between the step portion 33 and the stopper arm 40. Thus, bending the connection portion between the base cylindrical part 24 and the wire connection section 22 has no desirable impact on the engagement structure. Rather, if the connection portion is bent, the wire connection section 22 would be pushed toward the inner surface of the cavity 41 and the engagement between the step portion 33 and the stopper arm 40 would be disturbed, thereby possibly causing the step portion to be dislocated from one of the stopper arm 40.

For these reasons, it is submitted that (a) none of the cited references discloses or suggests the claimed feature of “a connection portion extended from the head position and *bent toward an inner top surface of the through hole*” and (b) none of the cited references shows any motivation to modify the terminal structure shown therein such that a connection portion extended from the head position is bent toward an inner top surface of the through hole, as claimed. Thus, it is respectfully submitted that claim 1 and 2 are patentable over Sakurai and

AAPA. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests that the rejection over claims 1 and 2 be withdrawn.

Claims 3-7 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U. S. Patent No. 5,921,819 to Lee (“Lee”) in view of Sakurai and AAPA. This rejection is respectfully disagreed with.

In this response, claims 6 and 7 have been cancelled and claim 5 has been amended to be dependent from claim 3. Independent claim 3 has been amended and recites “a connection portion extended from the head portion and bent toward an inner top surface of the through hole”. As previous mentioned, AAPA and Sakurai fails to disclose this claimed features and none of them shows that this claimed feature is desired for modification.

Lee discloses a backlight assembly having a replaceable tube but does not disclose or suggest “a connection portion extended from the head portion and bent toward an inner top surface of the through hole”, as claimed. Thus, claim 3 is patentable over Lee; Sakurai and AAPA. Claims 4 and 5 that are dependent from claim 3 would be also patentable at least for the same reason. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests that the rejection over claims 3-5 be withdrawn.

Claims 8-12 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U. S. Patent No. 6,533,428 issued to Ogo, et al. (“Ogo”) in view of Lee, further in view of Sakurai and further in view of AAPA. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

In this response, claims 11 and 12 have been cancelled and claim 10 has been amended to be dependent from claim 8. Independent claim 8 has been amended and recites “a connection

portion extended from the head portion and bent toward an inner upper surface of the housing”.

As previously mentioned, the combination of Lee, Sakurai and AAPA does not disclose or suggest this claimed feature, and none of them shows that this claimed feature is desired for modification.

Ogo discloses a light guide plate including a inclined flat surface portion where a thickness of the light guide plate decreases linearly from a lamp. However, Ogo does not disclose or suggest “a connection portion extended from the head portion and bent toward an inner upper surface of the housing” and any desirability for the modification. Thus, it is submitted that claim 8 is patentable over the cited references. Claims 9 and 10 that are dependent from claim 8 would be also patentable at least for the same reason. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests that the rejection over claims 8-10 be withdrawn.

Other Matters

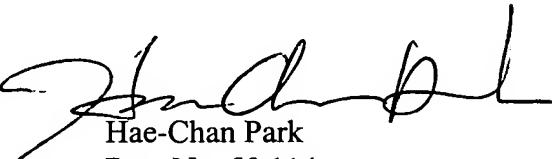
In addition to the above-mentioned amendments made in claims 1, 3 and 8, independent claims 1, 3 and 8 have been further amended for better wording and better claim structure. Also, dependent claims 2, 4, 5, 9 and 10 have been amended to be consistent with the amendments made in their respective independent claims and for better wording and claim structure.

CONCLUSION

All of the stated grounds of the rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. Applicant therefore respectfully requests that the Examiner reconsider all presently outstanding rejections and that they be withdrawn. Applicant believes that a full and complete response has been made to the outstanding Office Action and, as such, claims 1-5 and 8-10 are in condition for allowance. If the Examiner believes, for any reason, that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number provided.

Prompt and favorable consideration of this Amendment is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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